

Agenda Item Regarding Increasing the Number of Regular City Council meetings to a minimum of two per month.

Submitted by Roxanne McKee

Need for action:

Rollingwood is embarking on a comprehensive review of and potential amendments to its residential zoning ordinances. Such effort likely will be time intensive and lengthy because it should involve extensive vetting consisting of citizen survey(s), workshops, and numerous public hearings. In the meantime, redevelopment in the city is occurring at a rapid pace. The city has been investigating and is trying to respond to some questionable design and building practices that may constitute unintended consequences of the current version of the residential code. For examples, the possibility of using cantilevering into setbacks in order to increase living space and the extension of projections that nearly extend the length of setbacks have been brought into question. Trying to deal with these issues and others have led to City Council meetings that extend into the wee hours of the morning often, in large part because the City Council only meets regularly once per month.

Meetings that extend into the early morning hours do not promote transparency because citizens understandably have grown tired and turned in. Transparency in governmental proceedings is of paramount importance.

It is burdensome for City staff to stay at City Hall into the early morning hours and then be expected to be back at City Hall when it opens. Given the small size of our city, in my opinion, Rollingwood employees deserve a less onerous schedule that does not involve driving home in the early morning hours. This may serve as a deterrent to Rollingwood residents to serve on City Council as well, especially those who must be at work the next morning.

More frequent regular City Council meetings should lead to shorter meetings and greater efficiency. I recommend that the City Council regularly meets twice a month and that such meetings should begin at 6:30 pm and end at 10:30 pm, at least for the period of time that the City undertakes a comprehensive review of its residential code of ordinances.

The following City Councils meet at least twice per month:

Westlake Hills

Sunset Valley

Bee Cave

Pflugerville

Liberty Hill

Cedar Park

Brushy Creek

Leander

Kyle

Buda

Round Rock

Austin

This is not an exhaustive list.